

Service Academy Nominations Frequently Asked Questions

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. A candidate may seek a nomination from the following:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides
- Both U.S. Senators from his or her state
- Apply directly to the Vice-President of the United States

What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission to an academy:

- Age: Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday
- Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen
- Marital Status: Must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Residence: Must reside within the boundaries of the 2nd Congressional District of Kansas.
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

For a printable list of the Service Academy Nomination Information Sheet please [click here](#).

Who do I contact to request an application?

Click to download a [nomination form](#) or contact my office at (316) 262-8992.

What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

The yearly deadline for submitting a nomination packet to my District Office is October 1st.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Nomination form
- An essay stating why you want to attend a service academy, why you feel you are qualified and why you want to be commissioned. (Maximum one page, 12pt font, single spaced)

- One recent photo (4x6 portrait preferred)
- Official High school transcripts (And college if applicable)
- ACT or SAT score verification (scores included on your high school transcript will be accepted)
- An essay stating why you want to attend a service academy (Maximum one page, 12pt font, single spaced)
- Three letters of recommendation

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled for an interview.

What criteria are used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character and motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.

How many academies are there?

There are five service academies.

- [U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York](#)
 - [U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland](#)
 - [U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs](#)
 - [U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York](#)
 - [U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut](#)
- You do not need a congressional nomination to be accepted to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Are the requirements the same for all of the service academies?

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice via the web sites noted for each academy's particular admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the Coast Guard Academy, as the U.S.C.G.A. accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.

Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?

When looking for someone to write you a recommendation choose someone who knows you as a person; like your character, achievements, personality. You also need to choose someone who could convey these in words that will be understood by the advisory board that does not know you. Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include:

- Teachers

- Counselors
- Employers
- Coaches
- Clergy
- Scout Leaders

I do not require a specific recommendation form. A letter of recommendation is sufficient.

Will I automatically be selected by the academy after I receive a nomination?

No. You will be placed among a select group of nominees, and the academy of your choice will make the final decision. If selected, you will receive an offer of admission (an appointment) directly from the academy.

What if I choose more than one academy? Will I be limited to a single nomination?

No. You can be nominated to multiple academies depending on how well you have competed among this year's pool of candidates. It is also possible to win multiple appointments.

When will I know if I have been offered an appointment by an academy?

Academies will begin to notify candidates of their admission status in February. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.